

**POWELL RIVER PRESERVE
CLASS II NATURAL-SCIENTIFIC STATE NATURAL AREA**

COUNTY:	Claiborne	ACREAGE:	29
7.5° QUADRANGLE:	Wheeler	OWNERSHIP:	The Nature Conservancy
PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE:	Cumberland Plateau	YEAR DESIGNATED:	1995

DESCRIPTION:

The Powell River Preserve is a 29-acre natural area located in Claiborne County bordering the Powell River. This small preserve occurs on moist calcareous slopes where wet seeps support large populations of state listed species. The most distinctive communities at the Powell River Preserve are the northern white cedar shrub community and white cedar mixed hardwood community. The shrub community is a discontinuous stand of shrubs and stunted trees that form a dense thicket around the rocky opening. The inside of the cedar stand is dark and the litter layer is of a "mor" type, often characteristic of conifers. Shrubs commonly associated with this rocky area include witch hazel, spicebush, fragrant sumac, and southern black haw. Trees in this community include hackberry, redbud, eastern red cedar, tulip poplar, chinkapin oak, and white cedar. Rare plant species that occur in the seep include shining ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes lucida*), maple-leaf alumroot (*Heuchera longiflora* var. *aceroides*), and grass-of-parnassus (*Parnassi grandifolia*), along with more common species like cane, coreopsis, and false rue.

The seep area and white cedar shrub area are relatively small. Much of the natural area is a mixed mesophytic forest with oak species, white ash, red and sugar maple, buckeye, basswood, and tulip poplar. Chinkapin oak is the most dominant species at midslope, while tulip poplar is most prevalent on the lower slopes. There are also open areas downslope that occur on bedrock ledges where marl and loose stone create a medium that grows moss, parnassia, selaginella, sedges, and panic-grass. Barren species like little bluestem, sunflower, boneset, coreopsis, and goldenrods grow where soils tend to accumulate in open areas. Alder, cane, sycamore, Indian grass, and little bluestem occur in a riparian plant community near the river.

SITE MANAGEMENT:

The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee, 2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 400, Nashville, TN 37212, (615) 383-9909. Division of Natural Heritage, 401 Church Street, 14th Floor L&C Tower, Nashville, TN 37243-0447, (615) 532-0431.

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